

For immediate release:  
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## **Former Chair Marcia Nielsen, Ph.D. Appointed as Interim Executive Director to Kansas Health Policy Authority**

The Kansas Health Policy Authority Board has announced their appointment of Marcia Nielsen, Ph.D., MPH as Interim Executive Director, effective July 10, 2006. She succeeds Robert M. Day, Ph.D., who recently retired. Nielsen will serve at a salary of \$135,000 per year. The appointment is subject to Senate Confirmation.

“We are pleased to be able to provide this effective and prompt transition to ensure continuity and continued momentum,” said Connie Hubbell, current Vice-Chair of the Authority. The Board elected Hubbell as Chair to succeed Nielsen, also effective July 10, 2006.

Dr. Nielsen currently serves at the University of Kansas Medical Center as a faculty member in the Department of Health Policy and Management as well as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health Policy. She has served as the Chair of the Kansas Health Policy Authority since it began meeting in November 2005.

Dr. Nielsen received a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Management from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, a Master of Public Health degree from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Science from Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa. Prior to joining the University of Kansas in 2002, she spent ten years working in Washington, D.C., as a senior legislative assistant for a U.S. Senator and a health care lobbyist. Marci is a Nebraska native, a former US Army Reservist, and a returned Peace Corps volunteer. She currently lives with her husband and twin daughters in Prairie Village, Kansas.

Connie Hubbell, Topeka, has served as Senior Vice President, Community Relations, for the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. since 2003. Under the direction of the President and CEO, Hubbell leads KFMC's activities and education of Medicare Beneficiaries and their caregivers in health care services related to improved health and quality of life. She is also the former Secretary of the Kansas Department on Aging.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority, an independent board-run agency, was created by unanimous vote of the Legislature in 2005 to develop and maintain a coordinated health policy agenda that combines effective purchasing and administration with health promotion oriented public health strategies. The Kansas Health Policy Authority will assume operational control of the state's Medicaid program and State Employee Health Benefits Program on July 1, 2006.

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